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the original documents, place the situation of the countries discovered beyond all doubt. The number of days' sail between the several newly found lands, the striking description of the coasts, especially the white sandbanks of Nova Scotia and the long beaches and downs of a peculiar appearance on Cape Cod (the Kialarnes and Furdustrandir of the Northmen) are not to be mistaken. In addition hereto we have the astronomical remark that the shortest day in Vineland was 9 hours long, which fixes the latitude of  $41^{\circ} 24' 10''$ , or just that of the promontories which limit the entrances to Mount Hope Bay, where Leif's booths were built, and in the district around which the old Northmen had their head establishment, which was named by them Hóp.

The Northmen were also acquainted with American land still farther to the south, called by them Hvítramannaland (the land of the White Men) or Ireland it Mikla (Great Ireland). The exact situation of this country is not stated; it was probably North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. In 1266 some priests at Gardar in Greenland set on foot a voyage of discovery to the Arctic regions of America. An astronomical observation proves that this took place through Lancaster Sound and Barrow Strait to the latitude of Wellington Channel. The last memorandum supplied by the old Icelandic records is a voyage from Greenland to Markland in 1347.

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7. *Ascent of the Congo—1857.* By Commander J. HUNT.\*

I DETERMINED on obtaining some information of that part of the river hitherto unexplored, as we found, from Punta de Luisa upwards, the chart was no guide to us whatever. About 2 P.M. on the 1st instant I proceeded up the river, keeping the left bank. We found the river, instead of being straight, as shown in the chart, is a succession of serpentine turns, each point of the turn causing a small rapid, at some of which there was apparently a fall of from 1 to 3 feet. We had great difficulty in shooting the boats through these rushes; on one or two occasions were obliged to use hauling lines to assist us. On these occasions I was kindly assisted by Commander Moresby, of the *Sappho*, who accompanied us. On the nights we anchored. We always found convenient anchorage in little bays formed by rocks, and overhung by trees of a hardy evergreen species, differing from those at the mouths of African rivers. On the 4th instant, at 8 A.M., we reached the commencement of the falls, having had extreme difficulty in getting over the last rapids about 2 or 3 miles below them. From what we could observe, the Falls of Gallala below the great fall, which we believed could be but a very short distance from the place we reached, are a succession of small falls. The river here we found, by experiment with a rifle, was about 200 yards wide, barrièred on each side by steep rocks and boulders of rocks, rising almost perpendicularly in some places from 600 to 800 feet. The fall we reached was something between a fall and a rapid, the descent being from about 8 to 10 feet, the water shooting out from the angle of the rocks on each side of the river, forming the letter V, the lower part being down the river, the reaction at the sides making a terrific surf, which made it impossible to see whether there were rocks in the middle or not. Owing to these difficulties in the river, and the rocky nature of the land around that part of it, and provisions being short, at 11 A.M. we commenced our return, and reached Embourina on the same evening, the current running with us from 6 to 9 miles an hour. I returned

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\* Extract from a letter addressed to Commander V. G. Hickley, of the *Childers*, by Commander J. Hunt, of the *Alecto*, dated 15th January, 1857.

to my ship at Shark Point on the 6th instant, not having had a single case of sickness during the whole expedition.

With this Report I enclose some rough outlines of the principal points and headlands of the river. I consider the distance from Punta de Lucha to Embourina, following the turns of the north side of the river, to be about 60 miles, and from Embourina to the first commencement of the falls about 70 miles. I consider that above Embourina the navigation would be dangerous for sailing vessels, but of easy access to small steamers, such as our gun-boats; and I believe that the river could be ascended above the falls by canoes, occasionally carrying them across the points where the rapids are strong.

The scenery and appearance of cultivated ground in some parts of the soil is of a bright red and dark brown colour, and near the river dark green rocks of a very heavy substance, which I fancy contains both iron and copper. The ravines between the hills are well wooded, and are marked with watercourses which by their appearance must have had at times large bodies of water washing down them. We observed species of the arbutus, and many other trees now common in English gardens. The rocks and cliffs near the water were festooned in many places with magnificent flowering creepers, among which I noticed the Passion flower, and yellow, white, and pink jasmines. Several different sorts of deer and monkeys were seen, also a species of gnu in the river. I saw at various times hippopotami and large alligators, and a species of otter, also a great variety of wild fowl.

The weather was so pleasantly cool, that on one or two occasions we dispensed with awnings in the daytime. We saw but few natives about Embourina, and they appeared a poor, harmless set, chiefly employed in fishing.

### 8. *Coast of Morocco.* By W. J. ELTON, Vice-Consul at Mogador.

Communicated by Captain J. WASHINGTON, R.N., &c.

AT about an hour and a half's journey south of Agadeer is the mouth of the river Soos. This river rises at a place called El Kabla, about three days' journey eastward of the sea. At rather less than half a day's journey south of the mouth of the Soos is the mouth of the river Massa, which rises in a mountain about a day's journey in the interior from Agadeer. At the mouth of the Soos, and at that of the Massa, there is at high water about 12 feet, and at low water about 2 feet of water. At the mouth of the Soos there is no surf, but at the mouth of the Massa there is much. From the mouth of the Massa to a little town called Seed Bom Noire, where there is a small harbour, is about half a day's journey; from Bom Noire to a town called Bulfidial it is three hours' journey—the town cannot be seen from the sea; from Bulfidial to a place called Grishime about three hours' journey. At Grishime there is a village which can be seen from the sea. From Grishime to Meryleft it is also about three hours' journey. At Meryleft there is a saint house, which can be seen from the sea; there are also the ruins of a battery. At about half an hour's journey south of Meryleft are a town and gardens. Meryleft is said to have been a port about 200 years ago. There is an island near the coast which at low water can be reached by wading. Some of the inhabitants of Meryleft have arms, which it is said were imported there from a place called Erykoont, which is about three days' journey from Meryleft. From Erykoont to Legyera (where there is no town) it is two hours' journey. At Iffney there is a saint-house, and more than 100 houses, all of which can be seen from the sea. At all the places named, and the coast between